

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I urge you to consider the consequences of your action on this issue. All of the information currently available that I have read shows this new service will have detrimental effects on our Amateur Radio privileges.

I encourage you to further consider the hundreds of hours Amateur Radio operators do in community service around the country, including but not limited to emergency operations and preparedness. Also consider all of the communications we conduct with foreign countries and the exposure this brings to their cultures. This new service will severely hamper these operations.

On another note, Amateur Radio continues to be a great way to reach out to children of all ages. It instills values in kids by showing the rewards of diligent studies and reaping the rewards of these studies. My daughter, at 6 years old, is intrigued by my radio equipment and the people she hears from all over the world on it. It has become a way to spend quality time with her and we thoroughly enjoy it.

The Amateur Radio community is doing all it can to open the eyes of people young and old to the wonder of Amateur Radio. We need all the space on the radio spectrum we can get to cover the wide variety of atmospheric conditions to maintain communication. By taking away a large portion of "our" H.F. band, recruitment of new operators will be even more difficult.

In closing, before you make your final decision, if you are not a currently an Amateur Radio operator, I ask that you contact one in your local area. Go visit his/her HAM shack, listen to their radios, ask him/her some questions. Look at the work that went into setting up his shack and radio systems. Go outside and ask him/her to show you their tower and antennas. It is a good bet that at least some of those, if not ALL, he/she built him/her self.

Take a good look at the equipment. A lot of radio / antenna equipment advances have come from the always experimenting Amateur Radio Operator, trying to get his signal to go just a few more miles, or trying to pull out that very weak station transmitting from a mountain top with a backpack radio.

Don't take our spectrum away it is all we have. There are many ways to access the Internet out there. Don't sacrifice the oldest and most reliable communication method going.

Respectfully

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